Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this Application is requested.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Hilt (U.S. Patent No. 6,604,132B1) in view of Oberlander et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,729). The inventor of U.S., Patent No. 5,737,729 is Denman, not Oberlander.

Applicants are of the opinion that the Examiner intended to cite U.S. Oberlander's U.S. Patent No. 5,825,865. Thus, Applicants will comment on U.S. Patent No. 5,825,865 as the Oberlander patent).

Hilt discloses the following in lines 58-67 of column 8:

> "Turning now to FIG. 4, illustrated is a method of generating an e-mail address carried out according to the principles of the present invention and within the network of FIG. 1 or the computer system of FIG. 2. The method, generally designated 400, begins in a start step 410, when a user wishes to generate an e-mail address.
>
> In a step 420, the user is prompted to provide information regarding an intended recipient. Once the user submits this information, the information may be tested in an optional decisional step 430 for sufficiency. Next, in an optional decisional step 440, the information may be tested for accuracy or existence, perhaps with reference to a database of physical mailing address. If the information is insufficient or inaccurate, or refers to a nonexistent physical address, the user is prompted to completed or correct the information (returning to the step 420).

Hilt discloses the following in lines 49-56 of column 12:

> "Assuming the sender is registered, processing continues to a step 725, wherein physical mailing address data are extracted from the e-mail message. Next, in an optional decisional step

> 735, the physical mailing address of the recipient is derived from the 2-mail address and checked against a database of valid physical addresses. If the physical mailing address is invalid, the sender may be so notified in a step 745."

In the above, Hilt is not depositing physical mail with a carrier.

Hilt discloses the following in lines 24-45 of column 11:

> "Another option is to embed both the sender's and the recipient's physical mailing addresses in the recipient's e-mail address, thereby creating an e-mail address that is sender-dependent. While this again works well for purposes of creating a fully addressed piece of physical mail, e-mail capable recipients would still be hampered in their efforts to reply electronically. Furthermore, a recipient would no longer have a "universal" address; he would instead have a different address for each sender.
>
> Yet another option is to place the sender's return address, encoded or otherwise in some specially defined field in the header of the e-mail message. While possible and perhaps even advantageous, this requires the e-mail message to be formed different that it otherwise would were the recipients all to be e-mail capable. Thus, it may be disadvantageous.
>
> Still another option, and perhaps the one preferred at this time, is to require the sender to supply his physical return address separately (perhaps by separate e-mail message or a visit to a web site. Once supplied, the sender's physical return address can be associated with his regular e-mail address, retrieves from a database and printed whenever an e-mail message bearing the sender's e-mail address is to be converted to physical form."

In the above, Hilt obtains the sender's and the recipient's physical mailing address in an e-mail address. Hilt does not capture the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender from physical mail.

Hilt discloses the following in lines 10-34 of column 6:

> "The recipient information receiver 310 may gather such information by presenting one or more data fields that serve to

> prompt a user to provide such information in a structured manner. In the specific example given in FIG. 3, the recipient information receiver 310 presents a first name field 331, a middle initial field 332, a last name field 333, address fields 334,335, a city field 336, a state field 337, a ZY9IP+4 field 338 and a telephone number field 339. Of course, the recipient information receiver 310 may present fewer, more or different fields than these, as a particular application may find advantageous.
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> Thus presented with these fields 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, the user begins to provide information. When the user believes that he has provided as much information concerning the intended recipient as he can, he can indicate so by submitting the information to the recipient information receiver in a conventional manner (such as by clicking an appropriate button or pressing an "enter" key).
>
> The recipient information receiver 310 then tests the information to determine whether the information is correct or sufficient to generate an e-mail address. If not, the recipient information receiver 310 prompts the user to supply correct or more information. If not, the recipient information receiver 310 passes the information to the e-mail address generator 320.

Hilt discloses the following in lines 50-60 of column 7:

> In one embodiment of the present invention, an e-mail client interface then prompts the user to add at least a portion of the information regarding the intended recipient and the e-mail address to the user's address book (commonly associated with an e-mail client). Alternatively, the e-mail client interface may automatically add at least the portion of the information and the e-mail address to the address book.
>
> It should be apparent that the above e-mail address is but one example taken from a myriad of other possibilities. Some of the other possibilities will now be set forth.
>
> The example calls for the intended recipient's first and last names to form part of the generated e-mail address, because it is desirable that the user be able to determine the intended recipient to whom the e-mail address belongs. Assuming a desire to include some portion of the intended recipient's name,

> the e-mail address generator 320 may use the intended recipient's first initial and last name, viz.

In the above, Hilt is not notifying the recipient of the availability of the deposited physical mail.

Hilt discloses the following in lines 49-64 of column 12:

> "Assuming the sender is registered, processing continues to a step 725, wherein physical mailing address data are extracted from the e-mail message. Next, in an optional decisional step 735, the physical mailing address of the recipient is derived from the e-mail address and checked against a database of valid physical addresses. If the physical mailing address is invalid, the sender may be so notified in a step 745.
>
> If the physical mailing address is valid, the e-mail message may be tested to determine whether it complies with policy. As set forth above with respect to FIG. 6, the e-mail message may be tested to determine whether it includes prohibited content, is too long, violates message page or volume limits or the like. If the e-mail message violates policy, the sender may be so notified (the step 745).

In the above, Hilt is not notifying the sender of the manner in which the recipient would like physical mail delivered, or notifying the carrier that the sender does not elect to have the deposited physical mail diverted.

Oberlander discloses the following in line 35 of column 4 to line 26 of column 5:

> "If desired, an input unit (206) can also be optionally provided to allow a user to at least partially configure and determine the message descriptor. This input (206) could comprise, for example, a keyboard that would allow a user to specify at least certain aspects of the message descriptor. In other embodiments, the message descriptor would be automatically structured using predetermined or otherwise automatically determined information.
>
> So configured, the source (102) will transmit a message in combination with a message descriptor. Referring now to FIG.

3, the message descriptor (300) includes many information fields. In this particular embodiment, these fields include a target address (TA) (301) (representing a physical address, such as a telephone number, of a particular recipient destination, a source address (SA) (302) (this being the physical address for the source itself), a target logical ID (TID) (303) (this being a logical ID, such as a personal identification number, that identifies a particular recipient, as versus a particular recipient destination; this information will not always be known, and often this particular field may include a null indicator), a source logical ID (SID) (304) (the source counterpart to the target logical ID), a data type indicator (D TYPE) (305) (to identify the particular kind of message being sent, such as an analog voice message, a voice message that has been vocoded in accordance with a particular vocoding algorithm and method, a facsimile transmission, and so forth), and a format indicator (306) (to identify a particular data format as corresponds to the appended message). The message descriptor (300) further includes a services pointer (307) (to indicate one or more value-added operations to be performed prior to delivery of the message to the recipient; for example, storing and later forwarding the message, converting the message from one format to another, using the message itself as input to the user's profile, defining an action item for subsequent messages, and so forth), a priority indicator (P) (308) (to indicate a particular user defined or automatically attributed priority level to categorize either the importance of the message and/or the sender), a time indicia (309) (to indicate, for example, desired reception time or a deadline by when transmission must be accomplished), and a context header (310) (to include user specified context information pertaining to the message, such as "emergency" or "your loan application").

The message (311) then follows the message descriptor (300). Other categories of information could of course be included in the message descriptor to accommodate the needs of a particular application.

The profile information stored in the profile data base (106) as described above with respect to FIG. 1 is generally depicted in FIG. 4 by reference numeral 400. In this embodiment, each recipient, which recipient may have a plurality of potential message destinations associated therewith, has a corresponding identifying personal identification number (401). For example, one recipient may have personal identification

> number 1 associated therewith. The information profile next includes the physical addresses (402) associated with that particular recipient. For example, a particular user might have 9 different physical addresses associated with 9 different message destinations, as follows:

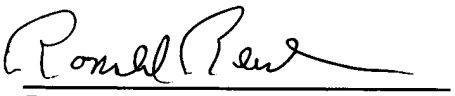
In the above, Oberlander does not disclose delivering physical mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

Neither Hilt nor Oberlander, taken separately or together, discloses the invention claimed by Applicants in claim 1, and those claims dependent thereon. Hilt and Oberlander do not disclose anything about delivering physical mail. Thus, the references do not disclose or anticipate the following steps of claim 1, namely, depositing with the carrier physical mail containing the recipient's name and physical address and the sender's name and address; notifying the recipient of the availability of the deposited physical mail; notifying the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the physical mail delivered; notifying the carrier that the sender does not elect the deposited physical mail to be diverted; capturing the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender from the physical mail; and delivering physical mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier, if the sender elects to permit the recipient to divert the physical mail.

In view of the above, claims 1-6, as amended, are patentable. If the Examiner

has any questions, would the Examiner please telephone the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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